

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2788

To establish a strategic planning team to develop a plan for the dissemination of research on reading.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 26, 2000

Mr. COCHRAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a strategic planning team to develop a plan for the dissemination of research on reading.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. READING RESEARCH DISSEMINATION AND IM-**
4 **PLEMENTATION PLAN.**

5 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the
6 “Reading Research Dissemination and Implementation
7 Act”.

8 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
9 ings:

1 (1) The National Reading Panel was convened
2 to assess the status of research-based knowledge in
3 the area of reading development and instruction and
4 to evaluate the effectiveness of various approaches to
5 teaching children to learn to read.

6 (2) On April 13, 2000, the National Reading
7 Panel issued its report, “Teaching Children to Read:
8 An Evidence-Based Assessment of the Scientific Re-
9 search Literature on Reading and its Implications
10 for Reading Instruction”.

11 (3) The National Reading Panel was to assess
12 the extent to which instructional approaches found
13 to be effective are ready for application in the class-
14 room, and to develop a strategy for rapidly dissemi-
15 nating the information on those approaches to
16 schools to facilitate effective reading instruction in
17 the schools.

18 (4) The National Reading Panel has completed
19 its assessment of the objective research-based knowl-
20 edge in the area of reading development and reading
21 instruction and has identified several instructional
22 strategies that have been clearly documented by re-
23 search to be effective for teaching the range of read-
24 ing skills to children of varying reading abilities.

1 (5) The National Institute of Child Health and
2 Human Development has developed an initial dis-
3 semination strategy to provide all Members of Con-
4 gress, all colleges of education, all State departments
5 of education, and all public libraries in the Nation
6 with copies of the National Reading Panel's report.

7 (6) A dissemination of findings, although help-
8 ful, does not typically lead to systematic and genuine
9 implementation of the critical research findings that
10 inform teacher preparation practices, classroom in-
11 structional practices, and educational policies.

12 (7) To ensure that research findings on effec-
13 tive reading instructional approaches are fully imple-
14 mented for the improvement of the education of our
15 Nation's children, a strategic plan for the dissemina-
16 tion and implementation of the findings is necessary.

17 (c) ESTABLISHMENT OF STRATEGIC PLANNING
18 TEAM.—The Assistant Secretary of Education for Edu-
19 cational Research and Improvement and the Director of
20 the National Institute of Child Health and Human Devel-
21 opment of the Department of Health and Human Services
22 shall jointly convene a strategic planning team to develop
23 the plan required under subsection (d). The team shall be
24 composed of the following:

1 (1) The Chairman of the National Reading
2 Panel.

3 (2) Persons jointly appointed by the convening
4 officials from among persons who are representative
5 of each of the following:

6 (A) The National Institute of Child Health
7 and Human Development.

8 (B) The Department of Education.

9 (C) Teacher professional organizations.

10 (D) Parents.

11 (E) Presidents of institutions of higher
12 education.

13 (F) The teacher education colleges or de-
14 partments within institutions of higher edu-
15 cation.

16 (G) Private businesses.

17 (H) Public libraries.

18 (I) State boards of education.

19 (J) State directors of special education.

20 (K) The Governors of States.

21 (L) Publishers of reading textbooks.

22 (d) PLAN.—The Strategic Planning Team shall de-
23 velop and, not later than December 31, 2000, submit to
24 the Secretary of Education a plan—

25 (1) to determine—

1 (A) the extent to which current teacher
2 preparation for both preservice and inservice
3 training incorporates the findings of the Na-
4 tional Reading Panel; and

5 (B) how any barriers to the incorporation
6 of those findings can be changed in order to in-
7 tegrate the findings into programs to educate
8 and certify teachers;

9 (2) to identify the deficiencies in instructional
10 materials, including textbooks and supplementary
11 materials, and to determine how materials might be
12 designed to correct the deficiencies in ways that re-
13 flect the findings of the National Reading Panel;

14 (3) to determine whether there are any barriers
15 in Federal and State policies that would preclude
16 appropriate adoption of the National Reading Panel
17 findings; and

18 (4) to identify specific strategies for collabora-
19 tion among businesses, public schools, teacher edu-
20 cation programs, university and college administra-
21 tors, and teacher-parent collaborations to guide and
22 ensure that evidence-based instructional practices
23 are implemented in teacher preparation, classroom
24 instruction, and Federal and State policies.

1 (e) IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN.—Upon receiving the
2 plan under subsection (d), the Secretary of Education
3 shall immediately take the actions necessary to implement
4 the plan.

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